

Appln. No. 09/991,041
Amendment dated June 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed March 15, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1, 3 through 6, 8, 9, and 11 through 19 remain in this application. Claims 2, 7, and 10 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

Claims 1, 3 through 6, 8, 9, and 11 through 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of the Jackson, Jr., Franco-Sion, Spletzer, Conrad Da'oud et al, and Biggs_ patents.

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires:

a second one of said body members inwardly tapers from an upper edge to a lower edge such that said second body member is adapted for fitting a thigh of the user;

said plurality of pockets comprises a second pair of pockets being coupled to the second one of said body members, a first one of said second pair of pockets being coupled proximate to the leading edge of the second one of said body members, a second one of said second pair of pockets being coupled to the second one of said body members proximate to the trailing edge of the second one of said body members;

said plurality of pockets comprises a third pair of pockets being coupled to the second one of said body members, *a first one and a second one of said third pair of pockets each extending from a location proximate to the leading edge to a location proximate the trailing edge of the second one of said body members*, the first one of

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said third pair of pockets being located on an opposite side of said second pair of pockets from the second one of said third pair of pockets

Similarly, claim 19 requires (emphasis added):

wherein said plurality of pockets includes a first pair of thigh pockets being coupled to the first one of said body members, a first one of said first pair of thigh pockets being coupled proximate to the leading edge of the first one of said body members, a second one of said first pair of thigh pockets being coupled to the first one of said body members proximate to the trailing edge of the first one of said body members;

wherein said plurality of pockets comprises a second pair of thigh pockets being coupled to the first one of said body members, *a first one and a second one of said second pair of thigh pockets each extending from a location proximate to the leading edge to a location proximate the trailing edge of the first one of said body members*, the first one of said second pair of thigh pockets being located on an opposite side of said first pair of thigh pockets from the second one of said second pair of thigh pockets

It is submitted that the art relied upon in the Office Action would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to these requirements of claims 1 and 19, as the pockets in the Jackson, Jr. patent are positioned in a manner that is contrary to these requirements of claims 1 and 19.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3 through 6, 8, 9, and 11 through 19 is therefore respectfully requested.


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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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